

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OFA-01 INT-05 DLOS-04 EB-07 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 IO-11 /082 W

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O R 121423Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5946

INFO COMICEDEFOR IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USUN NEW YORK 0466

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0061

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC UK NATO

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: REPORT ON TODAY'S SESSION  
OF ICELANDIC CABINET

REF: REYKJAVIK 0054 (DTG 112243Z JAN 76)

1. CABINET SESSION HELD THIS MORNING. PRIMEMIN HALLGRIMSSON  
CONTACTED ME IMMEDIATELY AFTER IT WAS OVER AT 1300 HOURS. HE TOLD  
ME THAT THE FOUR STAGES OF DETERIORATION OUTLINED PARA EIGHT  
REFTEL ARE TELESCOPING EVEN MORE RAPIDLY THAN HE MENTIONED YESTERDAY.  
HE REQUESTED A 7-DAY COOLING OFF PERIOD BEFORE SEVERING OF  
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RELATIONS WITH UK SO AS TO PERMIT POSSIBILITY OF UK WITHDRAWING

ITS FRIGATES ON THE BASIS OF SOME FORMULA SUCH AS USED TWO YEARS AGO. CABINET RELUCTANT, BUT AGREED TO MAKE FINAL DECISION AFTER MARITIME COURT REPORTS FINDINGS THIS AFTERNOON AND AFTER MEETINGS OF ALTHING FISHERIES COMMITTEE MEETING BEING HELD LATER TODAY. DECISION MIGHT ALSO BE POSTPONED UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING'S ALTHING FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING.

2. PRIMEMIN WAS PESSIMISTIC THAT HE COULD WIN POSTPONEMENT UNLESS RESULTS OF TODAY'S NATO SESSION OFFERS SOME OPTIMISM THAT UK WILL WITHDRAW ITS FRIGATES AND UK OFFERS TO RESTRICT ITS FISHING DURING ENSUING PERIOD OF CALMNESS.

3. HE SAID TOMAS TOMASSON INSTRUCTED TO PRESS FOR WITHDRAWAL OF UK FRIGATES. IF UNSUCCESSFUL, THEN STAGE TWO (I.E., WITHDRAWAL OF NATO DEL, OR AT LEAST REFUSAL OF ICELAND TO PARTICIPATE IN FUTURE NATO MEETINGS) WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH SEVERING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH UK. TOMASSON'S PITCH WILL NOT BE ON LEGALITY OF ICELAND'S 200 MILE FISHERIES LIMIT BUT WILL BE ON UK'S "AGGRESSION" AGAINST ICELAND.

4. CABINET REITERATED PREVIOUS POSITION THAT GOI WILL NOT NEGOTIATE OR PERMIT THIRD PARTY MEDIATION WHILE UK FRIGATES REMAIN IN DISPUTED WATERS.

5. PRIMEMIN SAID HE WILL KEEP ME INFORMED OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR.  
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## Message Attributes

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